The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District to construct an approximately 8 acre “off channel” debris basin along and upland of San Ysidro Creek (proposed action). The project limits are within the community of Montecito, at the intersection of East Valley Road (State Route 192) and Randall Road: APN 007-120-032, APN 007-120-033, APN 007-120-034, APN 007-120-035, APN 007-120-036, APN 007-120-101, APN 007-120-054, APN 007-120-103 (District owned), APN 007-120-100, and APN 007-120-090 (District easement). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA’s implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

Three alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1 (taking no action), Alternative 2 (proposed action), and Alternative 3 (second action alternative). Alternative 1 is not recommended because storm triggered debris flows would continue to threaten homes and lives along San Ysidro creek, causing localized flooding and extensive property damage. Alternative 3 is not recommended because the action may not result in future debris flow protection for properties downstream. FEMA has determined that Alternative 2 (the proposed action) is the only practicable alternative available; therefore the proposed action must be located in a floodplain and wetland. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain or wetlands and would benefit the area by: 1) reducing the risk of residential structure damage downstream caused by debris flows and flooding; and 2) reduce the risk of future damage and flooding of East Valley Road (State Route 192). Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain and wetlands are not necessary. Santa Barbara County has declared
that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and is responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA’s proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.